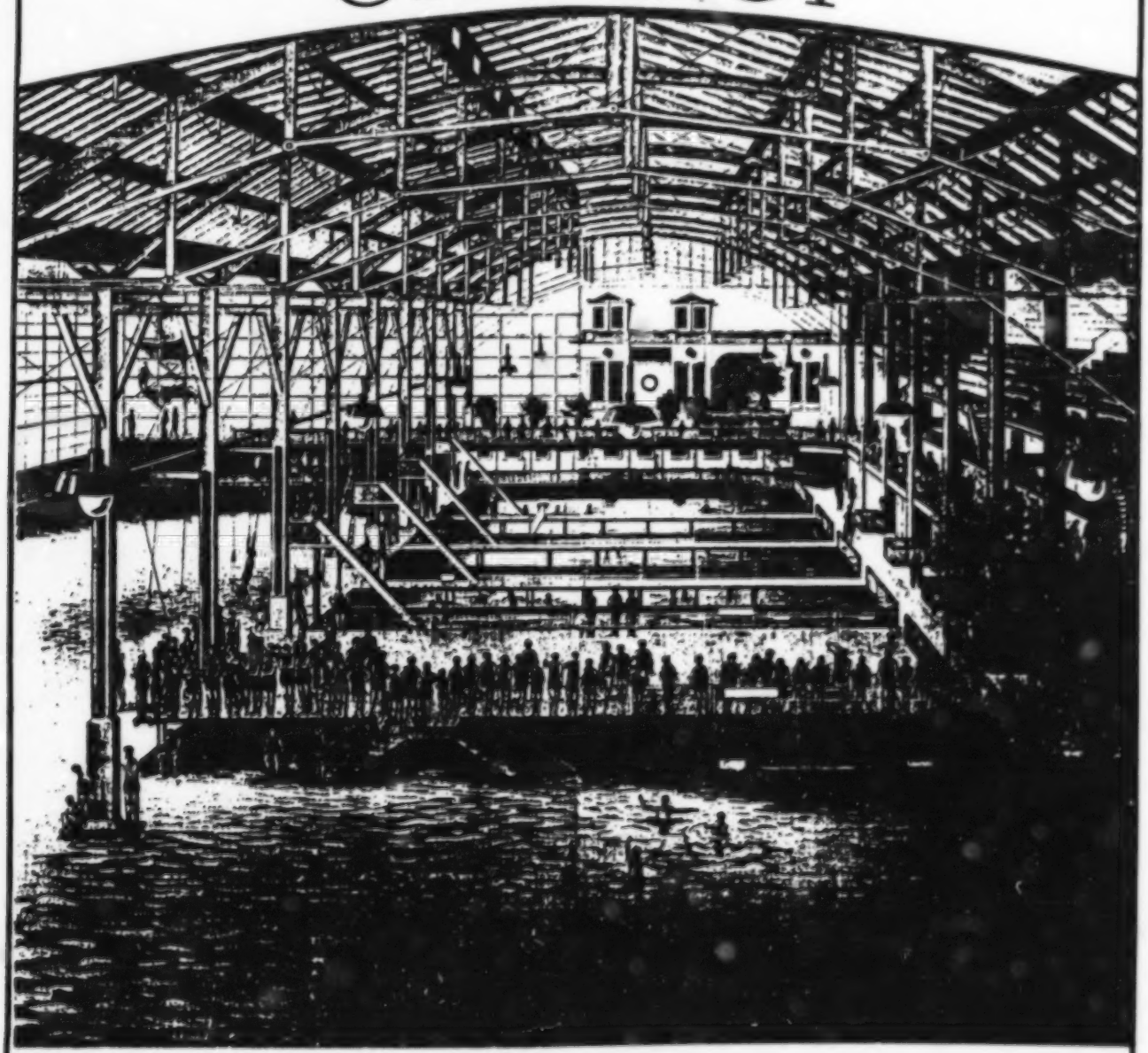
INDOOR AQUATIC FACILITY STRATEGY



City of Ottawa

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ABOUT THE COVER: The palatial Sutro Baths, named after former mayor and philanthropist, Adolph Sutro, was the largest and most sumptuous indoor pool complex in the world when it opened in 1896, in San Francisco.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SECTION A

City of Ottawa

RECOMMENDATIONS

On February 15, 1984, Ottawa City Council approved the following recommendations:

1. That approval of the Indoor Aquatic Facility Strategy be given according to the priorities set out on Page 3.

2. That the approved order of priority be altered only if the circumstances are such that a significant advantage to the City of Ottawa would be lost or jeopardized if not more expeditiously pursued.

3. That City Council entertain proposals for joint agreements for the shared costs, use and operation of any new aquatic facilities, in accordance with the criteria set out on Page 4.

4. That $1,775,000.00 provided for new buildings in the 1984 approved budget be allocated to the construction of a new west end indoor pool, and that the Department identify a location for this facility and prepare concept plans for the project.

5. That $20,000.00 be provided to the Department of Physical Environment to undertake the necessary engineering work for the renovations to the Jack Purcell, Lowertown and Pinecrest Pools.

SCHEDULE FOR RECOMMENDED STRUCTURAL MODIFICATIONS TO EXISTING POOLS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW POOL FACILITIES

Notwithstanding the budget requirements for other approved Departmental projects that might restrict budget allocations in the years 1984-89.

1. A New Swimming Pool 1984-85	2. Structurally Modified Pools 1984-89	3. A New City-Level Aquatic Facility 1985-86
	Lowertown Pool	
	Jack Purcell Pool	
	Pinecrest Pool	
West-end Community-Level Pool	Champagne Pool *	
	Closure	
	Brewer Pool	Leisure Pool Complex
	Canterbury Pool	
	St. Laurent	

Any further proposals for aquatic facilities made following the approval of the above should be evaluated according to the Stregety priorities. Should this recommended order of implementation subsequently be altered, the priority of the identified projects should not be significantly jeopardized.

* The operation of Champagne Pool should be phased out with the construction of a new west-end pool. This would avoid any temporary reduction in the existing extent of City aquatic services and would permit an easy transfer of operating staff to the new facility.

Criteria for Assessing Proposals for Joint-Funding Indoor Aquatic Facilities

1. Community-level aquatic facilities:

   a) Accessibility of the proposed facility to the intended market.
   b) Effectiveness of the scheduling for public use.
   c) Appropriateness of the facility design to the nature of projected use.
   d) Funding in proportion to the benefits received.

2. City-level aquatic facilities:

   a) City-wide accessibility by both private and public transit; compatability with neighbourhood traffic.
   b) Effectiveness of the scheduling for both City and tourist pationage.
   c) Combination of dry area and aquatic recreational components; suitability of the tank design for wide-scale use.
   d) Funding from several parties, such as the various levels of government and private developers.

INTRODUCTION TO STRATEGY

SECTION B

City of Ottawa

B. 1. PURPOSE OF STRATEGY

The purpose of this report is to develop a strategy which evaluates the various facility options available to the City of Ottawa in providing future indoor aquatic recreation. This strategy is designed as both a basis for Council initiative, and as a basis for response to initiatives that may be presented to Council by other groups or agencies. It will further provide a mechanism for the establishment of budget estimates and priorities as they relate to aquatic facilities.

B. 2. PREAMBLE

Fitness Canada's 1981 survey found that in this country, swimming in pools ranks first as a preferred recreational activity. Serving aquatic interest is therefore a high priority in recreation planning for the City of Ottawa. Wherever possible, the City endeavours to provide sufficient community-level pool facilities and services to meet the scope of demand. First consideration must be given to ensuring that every community has ready access to a pool facility.

In 1980, a comprehensive review was prepared, of the City and privately-owned aquatic facilities available, for public use in the City of Ottawa. The intent of this review was to establish the basis of a policy for the future provision of public pools and beaches. During this time, a change in the general nature of aquatic interest was becoming apparent. It became evident that a better understanding of the direction of local and external trends in aquatic activity was necessary in order to develop a strategy for future expenditures.

In addition to examining the level of aquatic services currently being offered by the City of Ottawa's pools and beaches, the 1980 review addressed various options for a major city-wide leisure pool complex. There was some indication at that time that the changing aquatic interest would support a facility of this type. Although there were numerous examples of leisure aquatic complexes throughout North America and Europe, the leisure pool concept as a major city-wide attraction was relatively untested in Canada. Based upon the flexibility of such facilities in accommodating a wide range of aquatic interest, a major leisure aquatic centre is considered within the context of this report. The need for a strategy to determine the best option with regard to design and projected use is addressed here, as the range of existing leisure aquatic facilities and their services are extremely varied in this respect.

In 1979, Council approved a recommendation that the City should not make further provisions for public wading pools on the basis that the limited seasonal use of these facilities does not justify their considerable capital and operating costs. Similarly, the high cost of funding community-level pools can only be warranted by their year-round operation. Since the intention of the Strategy is to direct the development of aquatic facilites in order to maximize their use and benefits, only those facilities providing year-round access are recommended.

In order to justify the considerable expenditure required to provide community level indoor aquatic services, greater efforts are required to extend the appeal of existing pool facilities to the current non-user. A large percentage of this potential market consists of recreational bathers, many of whom do not possess swimming skills. As water levels in an average traditional pool exceed wading depth in more than two-thirds of the tank, much of the facility's leisure capability is severely impeded by its limited bathing area and deck space.

A study investigating the feasibility of structurally modifying various traditiona pool facilities to expand their leisure use potential is being undertaken under the direction of Ontario's Ministry of Tourism and Recreation. A similar, less intensive examination of the City's pools has been carried out through the combined efforts of aquatics, architectural and planning staff. An aquatic facility strategy, evaluating each facility's current and potential use, has been made to determine the feasibility and priority of structurally improving the City pools, in order to maximize their service to the public.

Several requests received by the City for the shared use of jointly funded swimming pools have reinforced the necessity of evaluating the City's current inventory of aquatic facilities in terms of projected public use. The capital and operating costs of pools render a joint funding venture highly desirable, provided that the facility design and availability adequately serve the potential public market. In order to evaluate such proposed partnerships, a major aquatic facility strategy is required, addressing both community and city-wide level aquatic facilities.

B. 3. METHODOLOGY

The process by which the Aquatic Facility Strategy has been developed is described below. The Strategy was undertaken in two phases, the first phase, titled Current Trends, was prepared as a working paper by the Department prior to undertaking this Strategy document.

Phase I Current Trends

Analysis of the trends in local pool use was undertaken by examining attendance, programming and scheduling information for each City of Ottawa indoor pool. Attendance figures were extracted from working files maintained by the Aquatics Section of the Recreation Branch, and summarized for a period of six consecutive years: 1977 to 1982 inclusive.

This analysis provides the basis for establishing the general direction of aquatic interest on a city-wide basis. It also examines the local variation in public pool use, identifying the predominant user ages for each city pool.

Phase II The Aquatic Facility Strategy

a) A series of three day sessions were held to consult with City of Ottawa aquatic programming and administration staff regarding the current use, and use potential of each of the City's indoor pools, to determine the structural requirements for improving the existing facilities in order of priority.

b) Telephone and written communication was made with each of the Canadian municipalities operating leisure aquatic facilities, in order to obtain design, use and programming considerations from those who are presently operating such facilities.

c) Visits were made to the Cities of Brampton, Kitchener and Hamilton to observe their leisure pool facilities and to discuss with facility staff the use, costs and maintenance considerations at such facilities.

B. 4. CURRENT STATUS

The City of Ottawa provides public aquatic services at eight City-owned indoor pools and three beaches. Shared use agreements with the Ottawa Boys and Girls Club, the R.A. Centre and Clifford Bowey School (the Ottawa Board of Education) provide additional limited public access to three further facilities. With the exception of the R.A. outdoor pool and the Clifford Bowey leisure pool, opened early autumn 1983, each of the City's public pools are rectangular with depths increasing from one end to the other. Dimensions vary: Brewer Pool is largest (25 m x 12.8 m) and Jack Purcell is the smallest (18.28 m x 7.62 m) (chart, Page 12).

These traditionally designed pools best facilitate competitive swimming and some instructional programming. Examination of local pool use reveals that competitive participation is about five percent (5%) of the total aquatic activity - based on daily attendance counts. Instructional swimming constitutes approximately thirty-two (32%) percent of current pool use.

Public swimming accounts for the greatest portion of pool attendance. At almost anytime during public swims, most of the participants are swimming lengths or clustered in the wading depths. This shallow third of the pool is generally less than 1.4 metres in depth. A large volume of water is therefore greatly underused. This results in a traditional pool's practical capacity being less than its standard capacity due to the disproportionate crowding of bathers. It also presents obstacles to lane swimmers faced with the uneven distribution of bathers monopolizing the shallow water.

Ranking third in maximum user capacity, according to tank dimensions, Pinecrest Pool supports the greatest attendance. In 1982, the annual attendance at Pinecrest was 100,620. Brewer, the City's largest indoor facility, received 83,589 visits in 1982. Generally, in accordance with their capacities, Brewer, Canterbury, Pinecrest, St. Laurent and Jack Purcell pools are considered to be well used. Lowertown, with tank dimensions similar to those at Pinecrest and Canterbury, has an average annual attendance of approximately 10,000 (or 11%) less than the general attendance rate for a facility of its size. Champagne Pool, which has been in operation since 1924, requires major renovations if it is to be of a quality comparable to the other City pools. In 1982, total attendance numbers for this pool (27,677) was particularly low due in part to temporary closures for minor repairs.

The City of Ottawa operates three (3) major beaches - Mooney's Bay, Britannia and Westboro. Attendance per facility varies considerably: Westboro receives on average a range of twenty (20) to seventy (70) patrons at any time, depending upon the time of day, the day of the week, and prevailing weather conditions. Britannia's patronage generally ranges from forty (40) to one hundred and thirty-five (135); Mooney's Bay receives an average of one hundred (100) to five hundred (500). The apparent under use of Westboro is primarily related to its

size, being approximately one-third (1/3) that of Mooney's Bay. Westboro Beach is also poorly identified as a City beach and therefore draws a large portion of its attendance from the local community.

Pending the outcome of the Rideau River Stormwater Management Study, preliminary conclusions are that the cost of returning the City's minor beaches on the Rideau River to service could be disproportionate to their use. Mooney's Bay remains the only Rideau River beach in operation. The possibility of redeveloping a beach at Brewer Park is currently being investigated, however, no conclusive information is available at this time.

In addition, reports are being carried out by the Region and the City on the measures to be taken to improve the water quality of the Ottawa River beaches. These may further determine the feasibility of major improvements to Westboro and Britannia Beaches.

While water quality is the primary concern in determining the swimming potential of the City beaches, the variety of other park and aquatic activities which relate to beaches warrant a separate treatment of beach use from that of swimming pools. For example, the current investigation into various options for extension of the Britannia pier recommends that this work be carried out in conjunction with dredging of the swimming area in order to make use of the sand for fill. For Britannia, as with each of the City beaches, any major improvements to the swimming capability must be incorporated into the boating and park facilities improvements.

It is therefore the intention of this Strategy to address only those aquatic facilities that serve swimming and recreational bathing specifically on a year-round basis. An investigation of the beaches will form the basis of a separate study to be undertaken when the background information noted above is available.

POOL NAME (YEAR BUILT)	POOL LENGTH	POOL WIDTH	DEPTH	WIDTH OF DECK			AVERAGE USERS		MAXIMUM NO. OF BATHERS	PUBLIC GALLERY
				SHALLOW END	DEEP END	ADJACENT TO EITHER LENGTH	PER WEEKDAY	PER WEEKEND DAY		
BREWER (1967)	25m (82')	12.80m (42')	1.06m to 3.05m (3½' to 10')	6.10m (20')	6.10m (20')	3.05m to 3.65m (10' to 12')	230	250	175	Seating for 300 spectators
CANTERBURY (1970)	25m (82')	10.67m (35')	1.06m to 2.74m (3½' to 9')	2.43m (8')	3.65m (12')	2.43m to 3.35m (8' to 11')	250	300	125	Seating for 160-180 spectators
CHAMPAGNE (1923)	22.86m (75')	9.14m (30')	1.22m to 2.74m (4' to 9')	2.13m (7')	1.68m (5½')	1.68m (5½')	125	30	75	Standing room on balcony area above the pool
JACK PURCELL (1975)	18.28m (60')	7.62m (25')	0.91m to 1.52m (3' to 5')	2.29m (7½')	2.29m (7½')	3.05m (10')	161	115	50	No
LOWERTOWN (1976)	25m (82')	10.67m (35')	1.06m to 2.89m (3½' to 9½')	2.59m (8½')	5.03m (16½')	2.89m - 3.96m (9½' to 13')	125-150	125-150	125	No
PINECREST (1967)	22.86m (75')	10.67m (35')	1.06m to 2.29m (3½' to 7½')	3.20m (10½')	3.20m (10½')	4.11m (13½')	225	250	143	Seating for 150 spectators
PLANT (1923)	22.86m (75')	7.62m (25')	1.22m to 2.74m (4' to 9')	1.68m (5½')	0.76m to 3.05m (2½' - 10')	0.76m (2½')	100	50	60	Limited provision for spectators, space for 75-100
ST. LAURENT (1967)	22.86m (75')	10.67m (35')	0.91m to 2.29m (3' to 7½')	3.20m (10½')	3.20m (10½')	4.11m (13½')	201	205	110	Seating for 150 spectators
R.A. OUTDOOR POOL (1962)	L-shaped pool, 22.87m(75') x 25m (82') x 12.8m(45')		1.06m to 3.65m (3½' to 12')							No

ELEMENTS OF STRATEGY

SECTION C

City of Ottawa

C. 1. STRUCTURAL MODIFICATIONS TO EXISTING POOL FACILITIES

The most direct solution to expanding aquatic recreational provision in a community is by improving existing facilities wherever feasible. This removes the problem of acquiring new sites and can reduce some of the capital expenditure otherwise required for a new facility.

It is apparent, from the analysis of trends in pool usage coupled with the daily observations of pool staff, that structural modification to expand services would significantly increase the use capability of the City's existing traditional pools.

One of the more serious concerns addressed during work sessions with Aquatics staff was the lack of safe child play facilities at City pools. Even in the shallow depths, the water level exceeds the heights of small children. The installation of controlled shallow water or dry play areas would permit them to safely enjoy the facility, thus increasing its use while encouraging integration between children and adults.

Another identified improvement is the requirement for expanded ondeck viewing areas for non-swimmers, loungers and parental accompaniment. It is recommended that larger deck areas should be a consideration for each of the City pools, where such structural work is feasible. As many of the pool facilities provide specialized, as well as general services, their primary focus must be preserved in any structural modifications that are undertaken. For example, although integration of swimmers is encouraged at Jack Purcell Pool, major alterations to increase its use potential, must not detract from its present capability of accommodating handicapped swimmers.

Lowertown and Jack Purcell Pools have been identified as the pools in most need of structural improvements in order to enhance their role in providing aquatic recreation. Jack Purcell, which accommodates a high degree of use by disabled swimmers, requires improved handicapped access to the pool area. The Lowertown Pool, situated close to the Champagne Pool is in need of major modification if it is to increase its use. The high costs required to upgrade the Champagne Pool to a standard of quality comparable to the other City pools, may render such work impractical. It is recommended that it is more cost effective to improve the services and structure of the Lowertown Pool so that it may serve as the primary facility for the Lowertown and Sandy Hill communities.

Some caution must be exercised in priorizing each of the facilities as the redevelopment of one may affect the use made of a neighbouring pool. Another consideration is the development of new pool facilities which may have impacts on the use of the existing requirements.

In most cases, the recommended structural alteration is in the nature of general facility improvements to provide sufficient meeting room space and leisure enhancement. Certain leisure components, however, are perceived as essential in serving total aquatic interest, but are too expensive to incorporate into some of the existing designs. A comparison of capital costs of shallow leisure pools with adjacent learner pools and warm tubs to the costs of traditional rectangular pools reveals little difference between the two as the total water volume is approximately the same in both cases. Add the costs of removing walls to expand deck space, reinforcing the deck to support a hot tub, as well as the provision of a variety of other items to enhance the leisure atmosphere, and a modified traditional pool can become considerably more expensive than a new leisure facility.

For example, Champagne Pool has been rated as not justifying such an expenditure. Large scale improvements to the structure and service systems are necessary if the facility is to function at the level of other City pools. Given the limited deck space, major modifications to expand the dry viewing area would be required in order to provide an adequate leisure environment. The total cost involved may not justify this scale of structural alteration to such an antiquated facility. Pending redevelopment of the Lowertown Pool, it is therefore recommended to close the Champagne Pool and to transfer its current services to the Lowertown Pool. From an operational perspective, it is further recommended that Champagne's closure not take place until any currently proposed community level pool is already in operation.

In brief, existing pools should be modified to expand service only where the user demand is sufficent, and the costs of structural alteration moderate enough to justify redevelopment over the provision of a new facility.

In recommended order of priority, the City of Ottawa pools have been identified for structural improvement, as follows:

RECOMMENDED STRUCTURAL MODIFICATIONS TO THE CITY POOLS

1. a) Lowertown Pool

Existing Concerns:	Goals:	Options:
- Lack of meeting space. - Poor control of lobby area. - Need for controlled child play area. - Lack of adequate pool signage within the Le Patro facility. - Poor water pressure in showers.	- To improve the control/check counter area. - To introduce leisure components to provide a rest area, multiple activity for family leisure focus.	- Reorganize control area/ offices to maximize their use. - Provide a passive leisure off-deck with a view of the pool and permitting natural light. - Provide a controlled toddler play area. - Install water play equipment that does not obstruct the existing capability of the pool.

b) Jack Purcell Pool

Existing Concerns:	Goals:	Options:
- Changeroom corridors and facilities accesses are inadequate for handicapped use. - No viewing area. - No pool director's office. - Acoustics are poor, humidity high.	- To improve capability for handicapped use. - To allow viewing space for non-swimmers. - General facility improvement.	- Re-orient the changerooms, using the existing pottery studio to expand space. - Provide an exterior ramp entrance/exit. (The feasibility of this may depend upon the capability of the proposed west-end pool to facilitate handicapped swimmers).

2. a) Brewer Pool

Existing Concers:	Goals:	Options:
- Ineffective meeting room space. - Wasted space under the bleachers. - Blending with the new park plan.	- To provide more adequate multi-purpose rooms. - To increase dry area fitness capability. - To maintain competitive capability.	- Enlarge meeting rooms by extension and/or realignment of change rooms. - Provide a fitness/exercise area. - Provide a patio deck.

b) Pinecrest Pool

Existing Concerns:

- Inadequate multi-purpose space (there is no Community centre in this area of the City).

Goals:

- Provide meeting space.

Options:

- Provide a multi-purpose room/viewing area in the balcony.
- Construct a meeting room facility that directly connects the pool building to the arena.

3. a) Canterbury Pool

Existing Concerns:

- Lack of meeting space.

Goals:

- To provide multi-purpose rooms.
- General facility enhancement.

Options:

- Redevelopment of the facility to create multi-purpose rooms.
- Construct a meeting room facility that directly connects the pool building to the arena.

b) St. Laurent Pool

Existing Concerns:

- Lack of meeting space.

Goals:

- To provide multi-purpose rooms.
- General facility enhancement.

Options:

- Redevelopment of the facility to create multi-purpose rooms.
- Construct a meeting room facility that directly connects the pool building to the arena.

C. 2. A NEW COMMUNITY LEVEL FACILITY

Given the historical concentration of residents within the central area of the City, many of the community level pools provided by the City of Ottawa were built within the area bounded in the south and east by the Rideau River, and in the west by Fisher Avenue. The distribution of these community level services has not, however, been developed to reorganize the population changes beyond this area. The map on Page 20 shows a large section of the City currently unserved by a community level swimming pool. This section contains over ten percent (10%) of the City's population. Although the central area of the City has witnessed a decline in population, the unserved west section of the City has maintained a stable population of approximately 32,800 during the past decade.

Serious consideration was previously given by the Department to the expansion of Pinecrest Pool to compensate for the outstanding lack of public pools in the west end of the City. Although not the largest pool, Pinecrest draws the highest annual attendance. (See charts Pages 20 and 21). Its 244 square metre tank accommodated more than 100,600 swims in 1982. The average attendance for similar City pools is 75,000. Pinecrest's high attendance figures indicate that a west end facility would be in high demand.

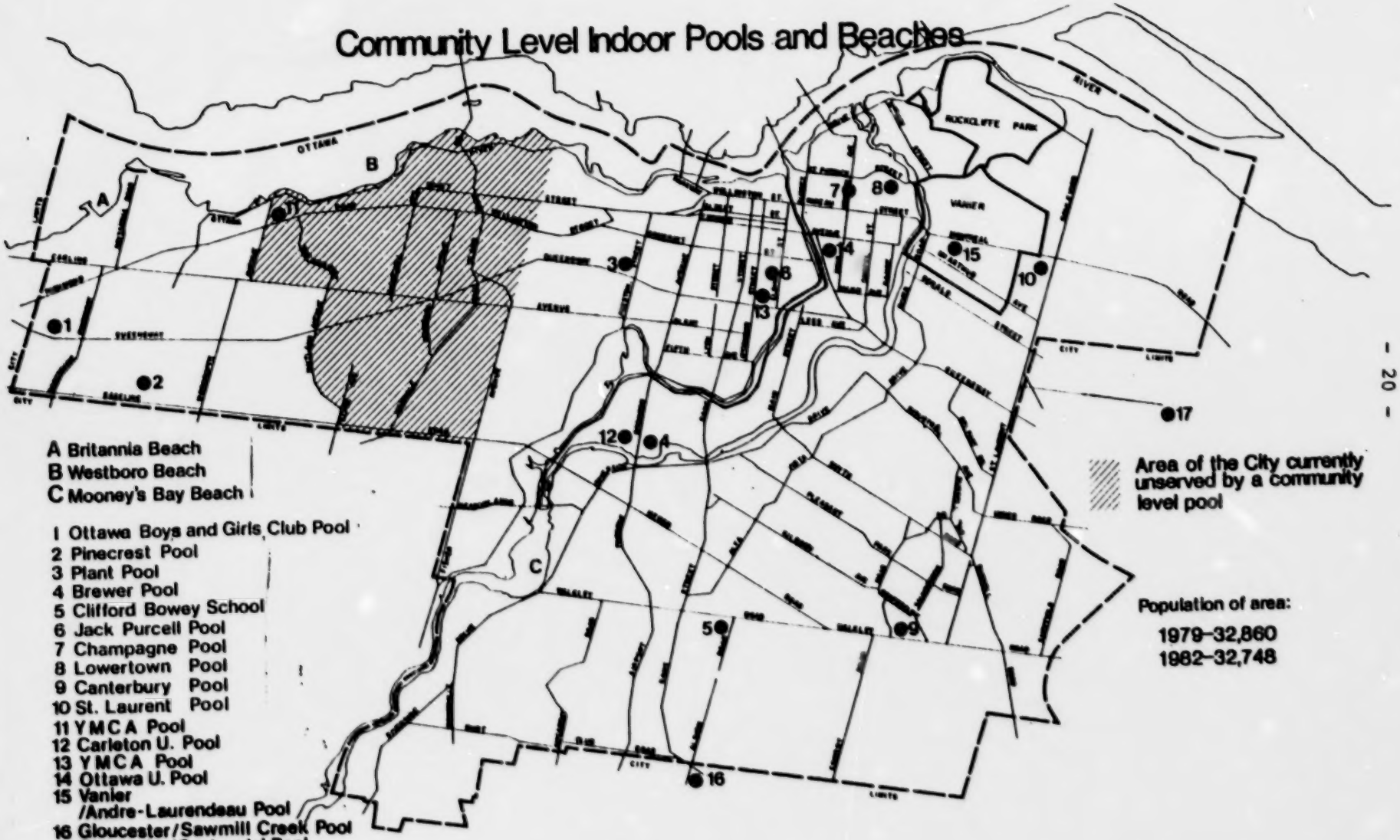
The feasibility of improving or structurally modifying Pincrest Pool to increase its user capacity is questioned since this pool is located on the periphery of its designated catchment area. Much of the community supposedly served by the pool have a considerable distance to travel.

With only Pinecrest Pool and the limited accessibility by the general public to the jointly used Ottawa Boys and Girls Club and the west-end Y.M.C.A. Pools, priority must be given to the development of a new community level pool in the west end. The preferred location would be within the area bounded by Caldwell/Kingston Avenues in the south, Fisher Avenue and Parkdale Avenue in the east, Woodroffe Avenue north of Carling Avenue, and Maitland Avenue south of Carling Avenue to the west (see Page 20).

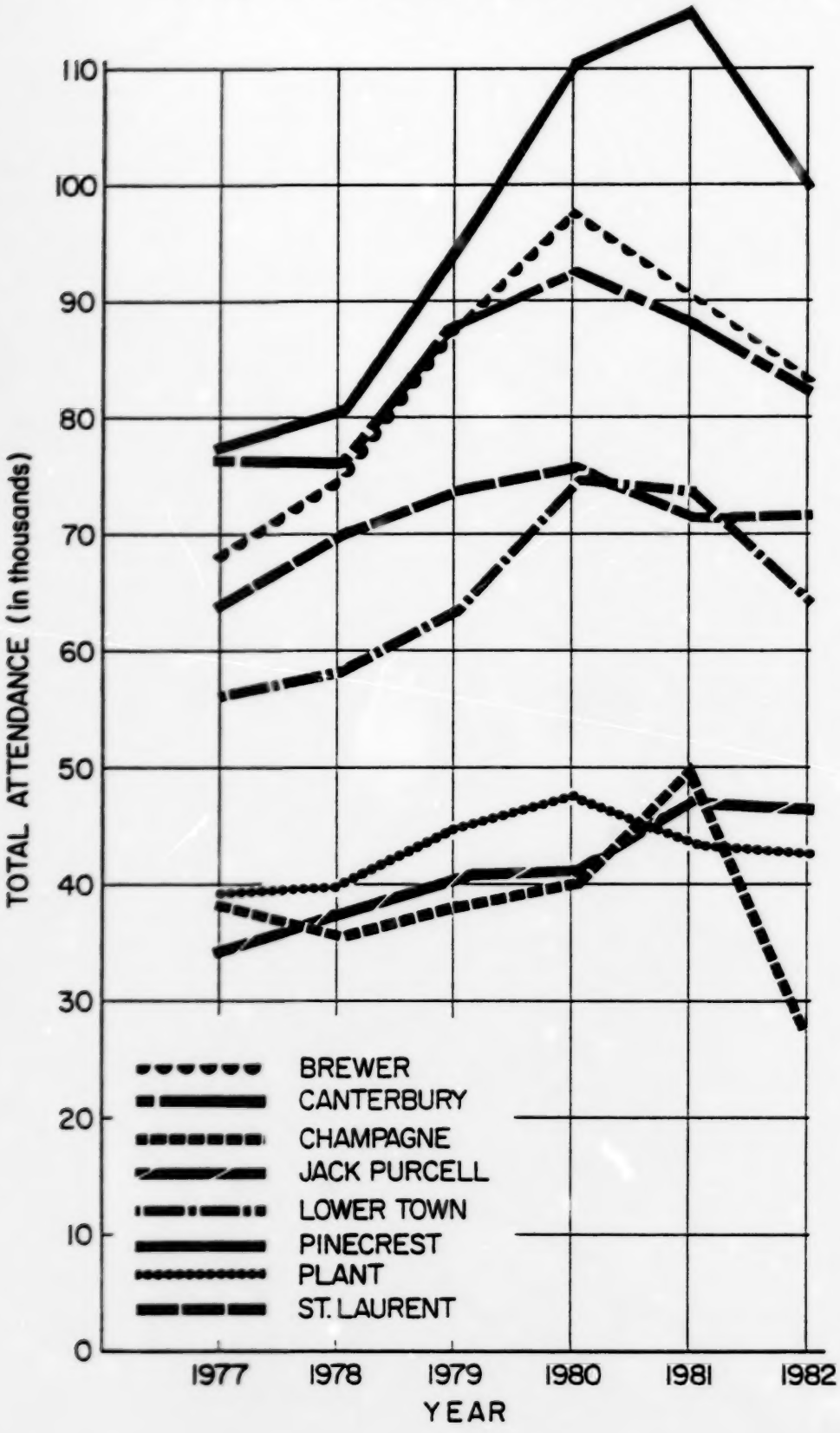
Some interest has been expressed in the provision of a community level indoor/outdoor pool in Britannia Park. The attractiveness of an available site must be weighed against its distance from the area of greatest demand. It is desirable to locate community level facilities central to the highest concentration of potential users. When the largest number of projected users must travel more than a mile to visit a recreational facility, the facility should be of a large scale, not a community pool intended for regular use. The feasibility of developing a Britannia Park Pool should be more appropriately addressed in the consideration of a City level facility.

At present, the City enjoys the joint use of community level facilities with a number of private organizations. Given the particular problem of site acquisition within the preferred area, as well as the considerable operational costs involved for this scale of facility, the possibility of joint funding for shared use of a west end pool should be investigated. The criteria which apply to joint funding of public pool facilities are detailed in a later part of the strategy.

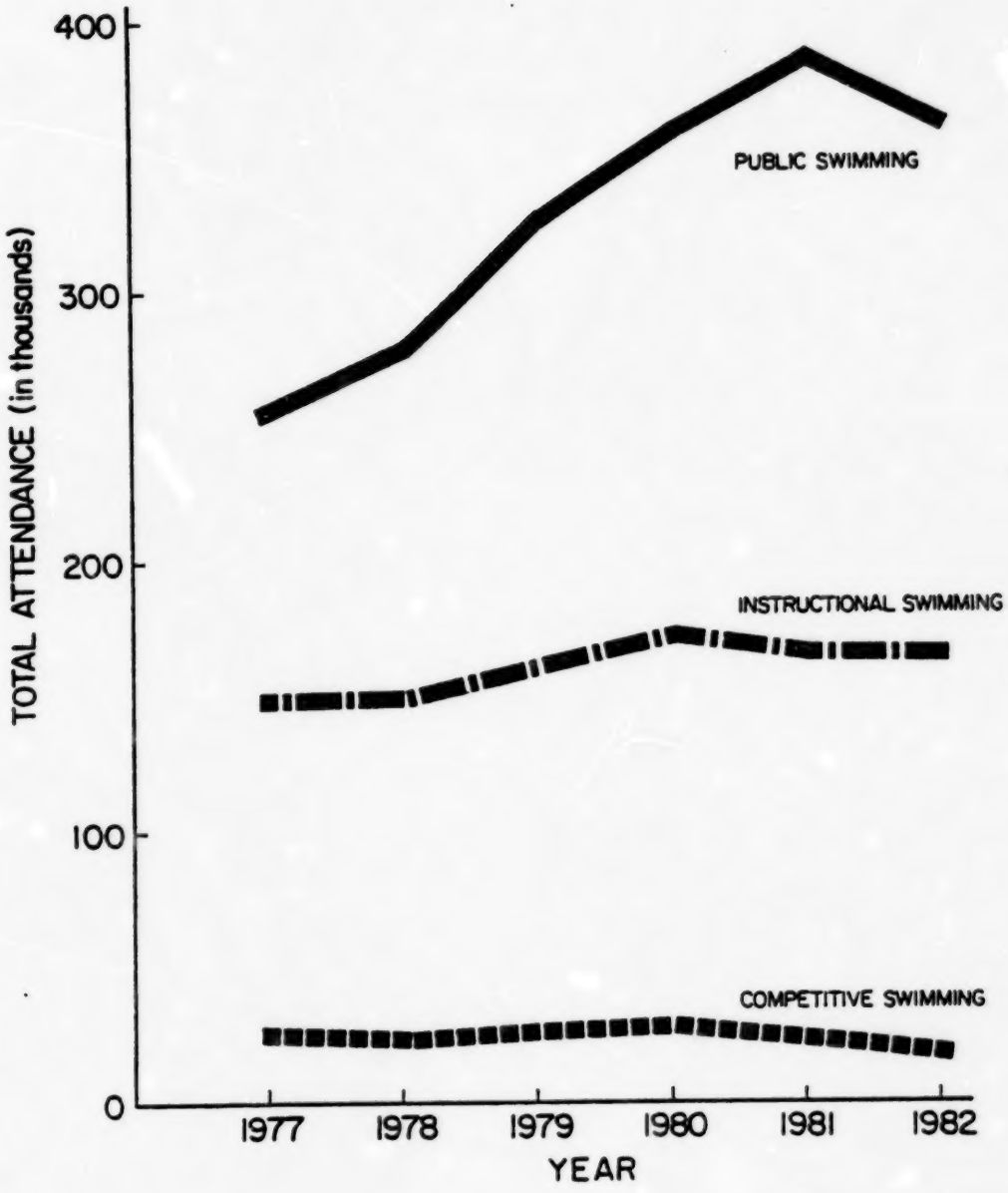
Community Level Indoor Pools and Beaches



ANNUAL ATTENDANCE PER FACILITY



ANNUAL ATTENDANCE PER PROGRAMME



YEAR	Public Swimming	% of Total	Instructional Swim.	% of Total	Competitive Swim.	% of Total
1977	256,701	57	149,598	33	25,208	6
1978	278,661	59	149,704	32	24,197	5
1979	326,172	61	160,419	30	25,587	5
1980	358,528	62	172,992	30	26,444	5
1981	376,570	64	167,601	29	23,988	4
1982	314,347	60	166,652	32	19,260	4

C. 3. A CITY-WIDE AQUATIC CENTRE

An increasing number of North American and European municipalities are viewing multiple-use pool complexes as the most effective means of serving the majority of general pool users, while producing some offsetting revenue. These aquatic centres generally support one or a number of tanks with moderate water depths, large curved decks and adjacent leisure components such as saunas, whirlpools, water slides and viewing areas to enhance the aspect of recreation and relaxation for a wide range of users.

While certain leisure pool facilities, such as the A.R. Kaufman Y.M.C.A. in Kitchener, are designed and programmed to discourage structured use, many others utilize the variety of components to simultaneously programme a number of uses. Brampton's Earnscliffe Pool is a traditional pool that has been structurally modified to include an on-deck whirlpool, a fibreglass slide and a tarzan rope. These structural additions to the existing facility offer a leisure use option while maintaining the previous capability for lane swimming and instruction. Often, the attendance as relatedto pool capacity is higher for leisure aquatic facilities. The A.R. Kaufman Y.M.C.A., for example, which previously operated a traditionally styled pool, reports that its new leisure complex which combines a free-form pool facility with raquet ball courts, a gymnasium and craft workshops, draws attendance figures that are approximately three (3) times higher than those of its former facility.

Recently, large aquatic tanks containing wave generators were first developed. The first wave pool began operation in Europe during the 1960's. North America's first wave tank was opened in Decatur, Alabama, in 1970. Since then, approximately thirty-five (35) such leisure facilities have been built in North America alone. Canada currently supports six (6) wave pool complexes - five (5) of which are indoor facilities. Many others are in the planning stages. The country's only public outdoor wave action pool operates in Hamilton, Ontario, during approximately ninety (90) days of the year.

Leisure wave action centres may range in capital cost from $1.5 million to 22 million, depending upon the size of the tank and the nature of the complementary components. Calgary's 22 million dollar leisure Village Square, in addition to having a wave action pool facility, includes a gymnasium, restaurant, lounge and sporting goods outlets. Wave pools can be installed for as little as $1.5 million, as in the case of Hamilton's six-fan outdoor tank. The inclusion of support facilities, such as lounge areas, concessions and elaborate water slides raised the total cost to $3.3 million. Aside from additional leisure elements, the provision of a single wave action component adds $250,000.00 to the capital cost of a tank.

In addition to wave pools, there are a variety of leisure aquatic facilities in Canada which provide similar recreation without wave action. Examples are Brampton's Century Gardens ($890,000.00), the Kitchener Y.M.C.A. ($3.3 million) and Clifford Bowey Pool in Ottawa ($1.3 million). Most leisure pools witness attendance increases that are twenty percent (Century Gardens) to two hundred percent (Kitchener's Y.M.C.A.) higher than the use received by similarly sized traditional pools. It should be noted that the apparent overwhelming increase in attendance at the Kitchener 'Y' is largely influenced by the inclusion of adjacent dry area sports and leisure facilities.

The mass appeal of a major leisure aquatic centre, and a wave action pool in particular, warrants the setting of admission charges that may range from $1.50 to $7.00 or more per adult visit. Additional revenue is obtained by equipment and toy rentals and food concessions. Family rates are offered at all of Calgary's leisure aquatic centres. These range from $9.00 to $12.50 depending upon the facility and the day of the week.

By charging higher admission fees, many leisure aquatic centres generate sufficient revenue to cover their operating expenses. Hamilton's wave pool is anticipated to recover its capital costs within its first five (5) years of operation.

The success of wave pools as profit generators is largely due to their capability to conveniently serve almost any user. At many facilities, small children can play in the near-zero depths or in the adjacent learner pools. The wave generation can be regulated to simulate gentle currents or surf-scale waves and can be subdued in a matter of seconds. Instructors have found that, by simulating natural conditions, the tidal action provides a valuable teaching tool for lifesaving and scuba-diving.

Serious consideration should be given to the development of a major aquatic centre in the City of Ottawa. The concept appears to be viable in light of recent discussion regarding the future development of Lansdowne Park as a major participatory recreational focus for both the citizens of Ottawa and tourists. The following criteria should aply in considering this scale of facility:

i) Site location is important in order that the facility project a City-wide image, be suitably accessible and provide adequate on-site parking space so as not to conflict with the surrounding community. It should also be strategically located so that tourists could also use the facility.

ii) It is also recommended that such a venture should be pursued through capital cost-sharing in order to partially resolve the City's capital cost. Operating costs can be treated in a similar manner.

iii) A leisure aquatic centre must contain more than one aquatic component (and/or complementary dry leisure facilities). Water slides, leisure lounges, restaurants, fitness stations, games and play areas are viable options.

C. 4. JOINT FUNDING FOR SHARED USE OF AQUATIC FACILITIES

Recently the City of Ottawa has been approached by various groups such as the Clifford Bowey School P.T.A. (the Ottawa Board of Education), the Jewish Community Centre and Lycée Claudel School, to enter into joint ventures in the interests of constructing new aquatic facilities for shared use. To date, only the Clifford Bowey P.T.A - Ottawa Board of Education proposal has been pursued and implemented. Each shared use proposal must be carefully evaluated, to ensure that the City's involvement will result in the desired scale and nature of public use.

In assessing the desirability of joint-funding for the shared use of community level indoor aquatic facilities, the following should be considered:

i) Location

The proposed facility should be situated within an area supporting, or easily accessible to, the greatest concentration of intended users. This potential market should be a population currently unserved by a community level facility, or a group requiring special services that cannot effectively be provided by existing facilities.

ii) Availability

The proposed scheduling for public and/or special use should be sufficient to effectively serve the projected market.

iii) Facility design

The proposed facility should be built to best accommodate the projected public users. In most cases, unless the facility is intended to serve a special use, the design should have a leisure orientation with the range of leisure components being tailored to facilitate the particular needs of the projected users.

iv) Funding

For most agreements, the funding by both parties should be proportional to the amount of use they will enjoy. In situations where the expenses may be disproportionate to use, agreements may still be desirable based upon the nature of the arrangements with regard to the other identified considerations.

The criteria applying to a joint venture for the development of a City level indoor aquatic centre are as follows:

i) Location

The proposed facility should be located within the City of Ottawa, such that it is easily accessible by arterial traffic routes and public transit, and does not conflict with the character and functioning of the adjacent neighbourhood. Adequate parking should be available on-site.

ii) Facility design

The proposed facility should be of a design and scale that does not duplicate any existing or planned aquatic facilities in the Ottawa Region. The design should incorporate a number of recreational components, including dry area components, most of which should be operational on a year-round basis.

iii) Availability

The proposed facility should be available primarily for public recreational activity, with time allotted to programming according to age and swimming ability.

iv) Funding

Funds should be sought from various levels of government, including neighbouring municipalities. Further, joint funding and administration should be sought from private developers involving all or part of the facility complex.

A range of factors must be carefully examined in the context of each joint funding proposal. Under certain circumstances, a group's over-compensation for one or more of the above factors may allow the City to be more flexible in the remaining considerations.

The proposal from Lycée Claudel School, for example, requires no capital expenditure by the City for construction of the facility, only operating monies and management. Further, it offers the City a substantial amount of access during prime hours of public demand. Constraints from the City's perspective are that the proposed site is in a sector of Ottawa which is well served by public pool facilities. Projected residential development in this area will be primarily multi-dwelling etablishments that generally provide private pool facilities. On these bases, it would appear that the only circumstances under which the City should even provide operating funds would be if the proposed facility were to offer the City components that are not currently available.

Another, less formal, proposal for a jointly funded facility has been discussed with the Jewish Community Council. This group have expressed an interest in sharing the costs of constructing and operating an aquatic facility at the newly purchased Hillel Community Campus Site on

Broadview Avenue in the west end of the City. The location of the site appears to be ideal in terms of meeting the outstanding community level pool requirements in the west end. Any constraints might be in the limited amount of time for public use, and in the amount of expenditure required by the City in terms of capital and operating dollars.

In any event, given increasing construction costs, limited availability of suitable sites, and various operating-maintenance considerations, prospects for joint funding agreements which would improve the City's aquatic services should be seriously considered. This is particularly appropriate from the perspective of a City-level facility. Not only are costs and location a major consideration but also its access to the target population. The users of such a complex would not only be City and Regional residents, but also a significant number of seasonal tourists.

C. 5. COST-RECOVERY OPPORTUNITIES

Traditionally designed public pool facilities generally operate at a deficit. The total projected cost of operating and programming the City's eight traditional pools for 1983 is approximately $1,575,000. This averages $196,875 per pool, although the actual figures vary according to the condition and design of each facility.

While charges for programmed swims currently apply to all participants, for the eight traditional pools, admission fees for public swims are only charged to adults. In order to partially offset the high operating deficit, a cost-recovery policy considering any or all of the following, could be established.

a. A minimal increase to the current rates charged for admission to public and programmed swims, including general admission fees for other age groups.

b. Special admission rates to public and programmed swims for non-City of Ottawa residents. For a facility such as the Pinecrest Pool, which currently has about 40% of its programmed swims being used by Kanata and Nepean residents, this could be of particular advantage.

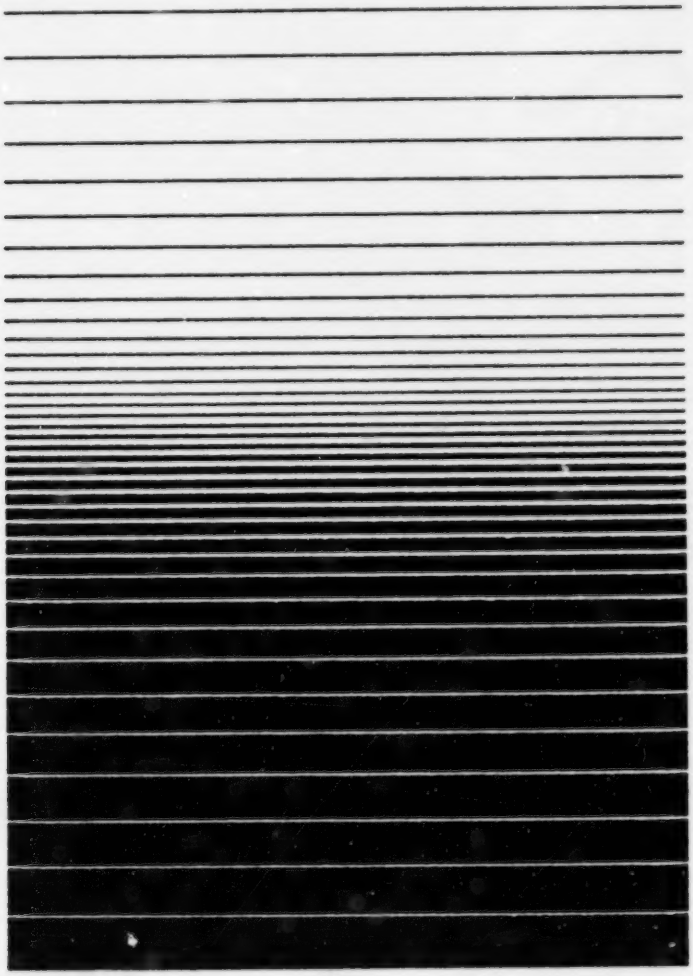
c. Concession and sporting goods sales, where outlets can be suitably accommodated.

d. Increased facility and toy/equipment rentals, where appropriate.

In the case of significantly upgraded or new pool facilities, a conscientious effort should be made to utilize such revenue-generating opportunities.

Aquatic Facility Strategy

Part 1: Current Trends



Prepared by the Planning Branch

City of / Ville de Ottawa

A DISCUSSION OF LOCAL AQUATIC TRENDS

by Sheila Dwarka
Urban Policy and Research Division

Introduction

The Planning Branch is currently updating its Aquatic Facility Study. Decision to revise the previous study is based upon increasing evidence of changes in public interest and of the successes in responding to these changes.

One of the first steps in developing an understanding of current aquatic interest is examining local pool usage. City pool attendance statistics have been provided by the Aquatics Section, Recreation Branch. From the available data, some direction in aquatic interest has become apparent. It is hoped that information from other sources and discussion with the Aquatics Section will assist in our analysis of the perceived trends. With a good understanding of local pool usage, we can best appreciate the significance of similarities and contrasts in other regions.

Purpose of Study

To investigate the nature and directions of local aquatic interest as a preliminary to the revised Aquatic Facility Study.

The study of public pool usage is based upon attendance, programming and scheduling information for a period of six consecutive years: 1977 to 1982 inclusive. Local pool staff undertake regular counts of attendance numbers categorized by user groups and programmes. These numbers have been extracted from working files maintained by the Aquatics Section, Recreation Branch.

Information pertaining to the City's eight indoor pools allows for a consistent analysis of pool usage as the programme structures and seasonal openings for these pools are comparable.

Method

By examining attendance information for City pools:

1. by year
2. by facility
3. by user group
4. by programme type

1. General Attendance (Figure 1)

There has been an increase in pool attendance by 15%, based upon first and last year's figures. 1981 saw a peak of 586,640. Figures fell by 11% in 1982. The decline was evident in every month and for each age group. Lower attendance is observed for all facilities but St. Laurent which maintained figures similar to those of 1981 (see Figure 2).

Aquatics staff have offered various comments regarding the recent decrease in attendance. It is interesting to note that Pool staff have communicated little awareness of the actual drop although the decline in children's attendance has been noted by several.

Factors Which May Be Influencing Attendance

a) Adult Admission Fee

   i) Since April, 1982, an admission fee of $1.00 has been charged to adults. Aquatics staff consider this to be significant factor. It might account for the reduced adult attendance and thereby that of children who would not swim unless accompanied by an older person. It does not, however, account for the decline during the months of January, February and March, before the charge was implemented.

   ii) In the past, Brewer Pool staff observed that many joggers enjoyed a brief swim in completing their exercise routines. Recently, many of these users have been limiting their "cooling off" to the facility's showers which have remained free to all.

b) The decline in child population has naturally affected children's pool attendance. This may also have served as a catalyst to the decrease in adult attendance by reducing the number of those who would attend as parental accompaniment.

c) Discussions with pool staff suggest that the public has a threshold of crowd discomfort which is well below that of pool capacity. In response to the 1981 peak, the public may be seeking lower volume alternatives, such as apartment pools.

d) Programme costs - although the City offers aquatic programmes at low rates compared to those of other regional facilities, some fees have escalated considerably in the six year period. Competitive and synchronized programme costs are examples.

e) Comments from neighbouring municipalities are being awaited. Comparing regional trends may enable us to determine the significance of the decline - whether it is a result of over supply, or perhaps another indicator of public preference for a more relaxing pool environment.

From the various factors perceived as influencing attendance, we will hypothesize that there is not one, but an assortment of reasons why attendance has dropped, the variety being dependent on both the particular facility and the changing nature of aquatic interest in general.

DISCUSSION OF LOCAL AQUATIC TRENDS

Introduction

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Information pertaining to the City's eight indoor pools allows for a consistent analysis of pool usage as the programme structures and seasonal openings for these pools are comparable.

Method

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Facilities

City Pools

The City of Ottawa provides public aquatic services with eight traditional indoor pools and one outdoor pool. "Traditional" typically defines a 25 metre pool, seven lanes wide, with one major diving facility. Dimensions vary: Brewer Pool is largest (25 m x 12.8 m) and Jack Purcell smallest (18.28 m x 7.62 m). Shared use agreement with the Ottawa Boys and Girls Club and with Clifford Bowey Pool, upon its opening in June, provide additional public access.

The Leisure Alternative

In recent years, trends towards leisure aquatics have become apparent in many North American and European cities. A major aquatic facility study to determine the nature of local demand was completed in 1980, however, the concept of a major leisure facility was still very much in an embryonic stage of development. Experimentation in other municipalities indicated success, but details were considered inadequate for parallel analysis.

Canada currently maintains leisure pools in the cities of Kitchener, Brampton, Calgary, Edmonton and Burnaby. Hamilton's "wave-tech" pool is in its final stages of construction. There is no current inventory of leisure components specific to each facility. Various features are:

Sundecks; increased deck space
Kidney, "L" and fan-shaped pools
Lower water levels
Whirlpools, saunas, diving pools, learning pools
Natural decor such as: rocks, fountains, tropical plants
Artificial tanning stations
Dry area exercise equipment
Observer's galleries
Adjacent bars/restaurants
Wave generators

The departure from standard dimensions and equipment has proven to be of greater service to the heterogeneous community. Higher attendance is stimulated. Leisure pools have extended appeal to non-swimmers, providing pleasant deck spaces, therapeutic saunas and whirlpools, and comfortable water levels. Novel "wavetech" pools, by simulating tidal action, have the ability to draw people from great distances.

The forthcoming revised Aquatic Facility Study will consider in detail the feasibility of implementing the leisure concept regionally and locally.

Discussion

The available information on local pool usage possesses strong indicators of increasing trends towards public swimming, particularly for adults. Comments and statistics relating to the success of leisure pools in other municipalities are being collected. These will enable us to conjecture the extent to which current interest in non-organized aquatics would justify the development of leisure facilities in this region.

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a) Programming (Table 3)

i) Programming has remained relatively consistent in the six year period. Pre/post-natal swims were introduced in 1982. Attendance figures are not available but pool staff consider them to be under used. There has been an increase in the variety of lesson levels and these are successfully employed.

ii) Programme costs have not varied greatly or become out of proportion with inflation, except in competitive and synchronized swimming. For these programmes, fees have approximately doubled, for example, senior competitive has increased from $150.00 to $369.00 per annual membership. Most programme costs have increased by one-third or less.

Programming information from non-City facilities, such as local universities and neighbouring municipalities, is being awaited. This information will allow for a comparison of what is being offered in aquatics and should clarify recent indications in user demands.

b) Scheduling

Based upon first and last year's figures, scheduled time for public swimming has increased by 34%. 100% more time has been allotted for adult swims, 27% more for senior citizens, and a decrease of 30% for students. As the distinction between children and teens often varies according to the subjectivity of the counter, few conclusions can be drawn from a comparison of pool usage and time scheduled for youths' public swim. In general, all facilities are responding to the increase in adult interest with extended pool time.

1. General Attendance (Figure 1)

There has been an increase in pool attendance by 15%, based upon first and last year's figures. 1981 saw a peak of 586,640. Figures fell by 11% in 1982. The decline was evident in every month and for each age group. Lower attendance is observed for all facilities but St. Laurent which maintained figures similar to those of 1981 (see Figure 2).

The consistently large volume of swimmers clouded the appearance of a decrease in attendance at most facilities. It is interesting to note that pool staff have communicated little awareness of the actual drop although the decline in children's attendance has been noted by several.

Factors Which May Be Influencing Attendance

a) Adult Admission Fee

   i) Since April, 1982, an admission fee of $1.00 has been charged to adults. Aquatics staff consider this to be significant factor. It might account for the reduced adult attendance and thereby that of children who would not swim unless accompanied by an older person. It does not, however, account for the decline during the months of January, February and March, before the charge was implemented.

   ii) In the past, Brewer Pool staff observed that many joggers enjoyed a brief swim in completing their exercise routines. Recently, many of these users have been limiting their "cooling off" to the facility's showers which have remained free to all.

b) The decline in child population has naturally affected children's pool attendance. This may also have served as a catalyst to the decrease in adult attendance by reducing the number of those who would attend as parental accompaniment.

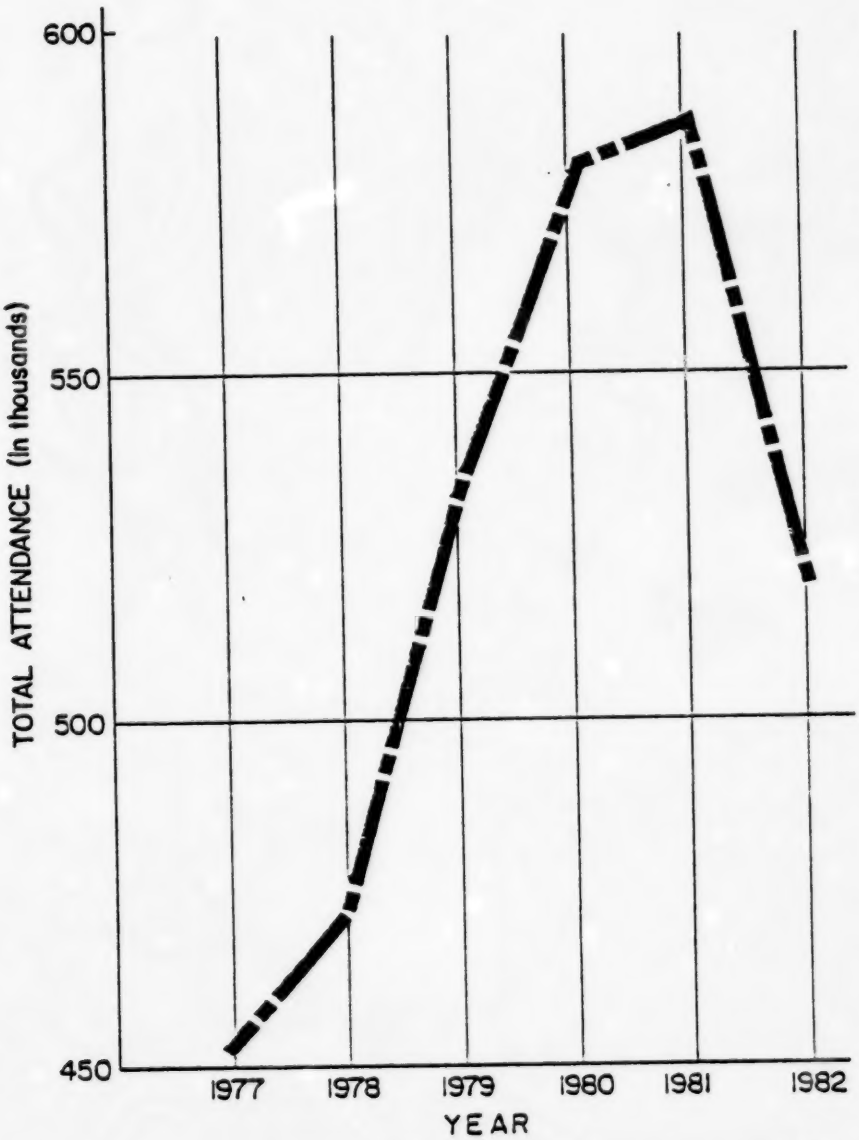
c) Discussions with pool staff suggest that the public has a threshold of crowd discomfort which is reached at approximately 80% of a pool's standard capacity. In response to the 1981 peak, the public may be seeking lower volume alternatives, such as apartment pools.

d) Programme costs - although the City offers aquatic programmes at low rates compared to those of other regional facilities, some fees have escalated considerably in the six year period. Competitive and synchronized programme costs are examples.

e) Comments from neighbouring municipalities are being awaited. Comparing regional trends may enable us to determine the significance of the decline - whether it is a result of over supply, or perhaps another indicator of public preference for a more relaxing pool environment.

From the various factors perceived as influencing attendance, we will hypothesize that there is not one, but an assortment of reasons why attendance has dropped, the variety being dependent on both the particular facility and the changing nature of aquatic interest in general.

Fig. 1 ANNUAL PUBLIC POOL ATTENDANCE



YEAR	TOTAL ATTENDANCE	% INCREASE
1977	453,079	—
1978	473,473	4.5
1979	533,202	12.6
1980	580,988	8.9
1981	586,640	1.0
1982	520,796	-11.2

Fig. 2 ANNUAL ATTENDANCE PER FACILITY

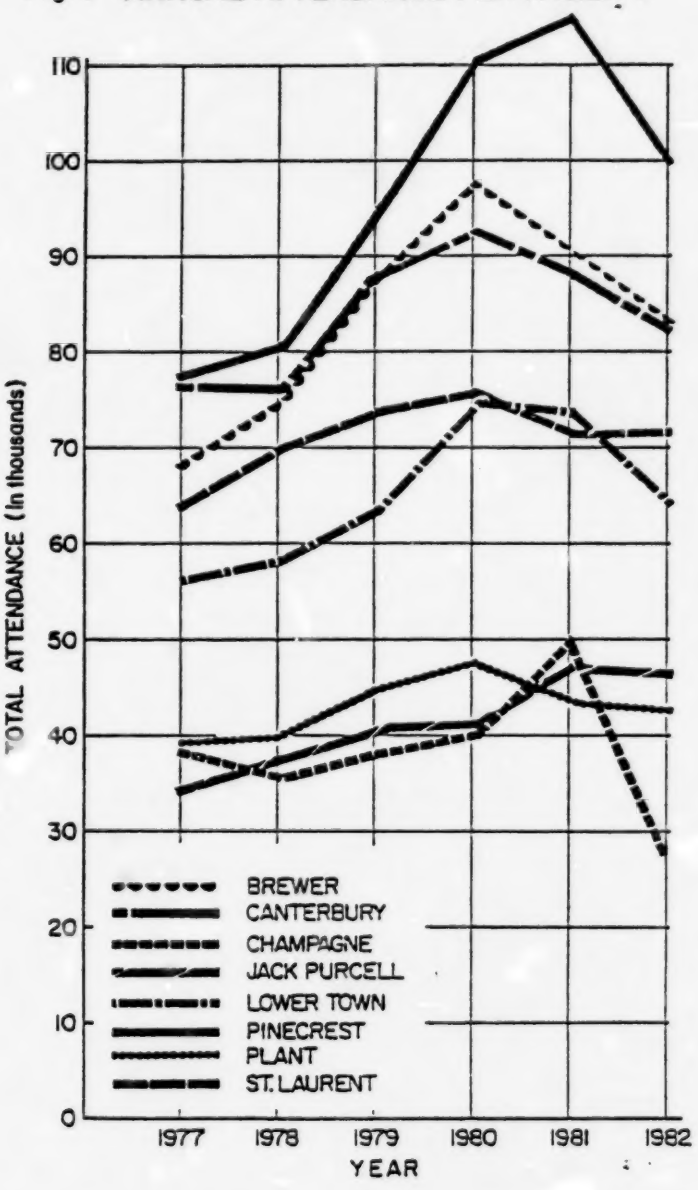


Table 1 ANNUAL ATTENDANCE PER FACILITY

YEAR	Brewer	Canterbury	Champagne	Jack Purcell	Lowertown	Pinecrest	Plant	St.Laurent
1977	68,880	76,553	38,395	34,759	56,452	77,573	39,203	64,264
1978	74,434	76,177	35,974	37,307	58,379	80,708	40,465	70,129
1979	88,171	88,602	38,123	40,918	63,765	94,412	44,800	74,071
1980	97,707	92,740	40,188	41,511	74,131	110,934	47,889	75,938
1981	91,133	88,281	50,230	47,275	73,923	115,242	48,745	71,811
1982	83,589	82,693	27,677	46,801	64,828	100,620	42,696	71,942

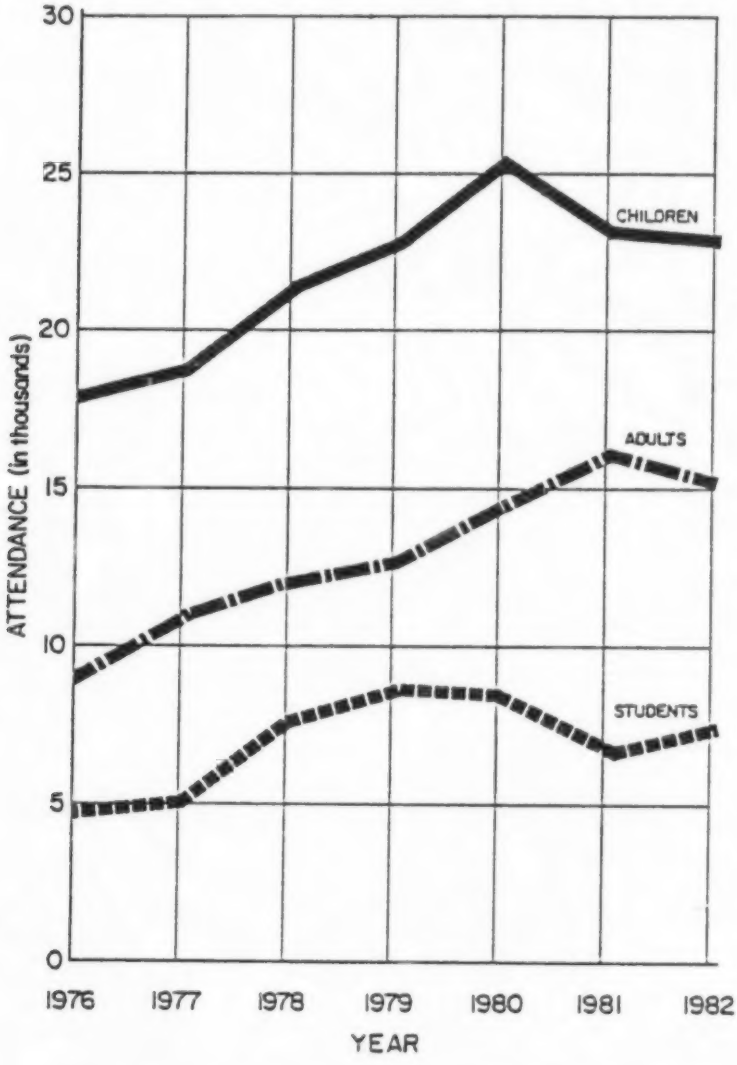
2. Who Uses the City's Pools? (Table 2)

Overall, the main user group is children (including youth), in a 3:2 ratio with adults. The proportion varies seasonally, usually favouring adults in the winter months. In all local pools, the gap between children and adult attendance has been narrowing. Brewer and Jack Purcell are as yet the only pools at which adult attendance exceeds that of children. In general, the nature of user attendance reflects the changing local population distribution. See Figures 3, 4, 5: St. Laurent, Canterbury and Brewer Pools, respectively, are indicators of the progression of public pool usage towards higher adults', lower children's rates of attendance.

Table 2 PUBLIC SWIMMING ATTENDANCE RECORDS FROM 1976 TO 1982

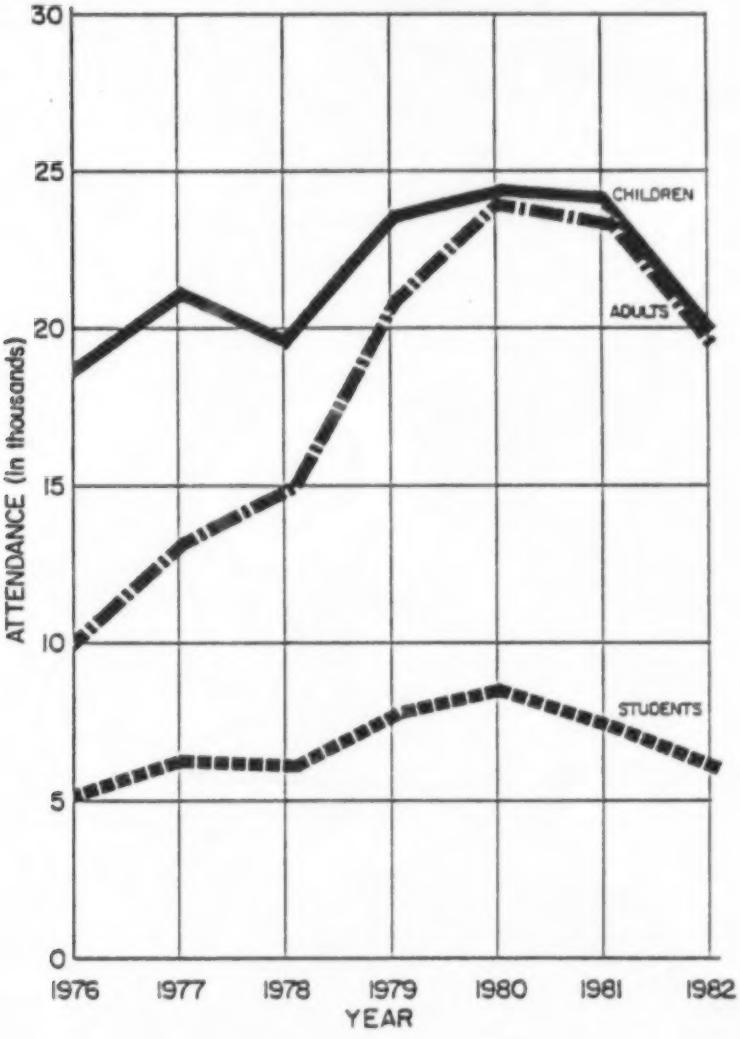
	Brewer	Canterbury	Champagne	Jack Purcell	Lowertown	Pinecrest	Plant	St.Laurent	
Children	18,900	18,730	9,800	4,050	13,520	22,230	12,575	17,920	
Students	5,290	5,180	3,145	685	4,025	2,860	3,020	4,805	1976
Adults	14,085	10,010	7,070	7,890	8,335	11,555	1,440	8,940	
Total	38,275	33,920	20,015	12,625	25,880	36,645	17,135	31,665	
Children	18,128	21,034	11,177	5,256	15,414	23,572	15,517	18,759	
Students	5,309	6,289	3,000	1,401	5,628	2,654	4,205	5,057	1977
Adults	16,514	12,901	8,268	13,595	13,249	15,917	2,914	10,943	
Total	39,951	40,224	22,445	20,252	34,291	42,143	22,636	34,759	
Children	22,501	19,741	9,726	6,058	16,491	25,246	15,716	21,260	
Students	3,797	6,141	3,149	1,202	4,637	3,395	4,251	7,619	1978
Adults	17,908	14,848	9,492	15,241	15,344	18,831	4,515	12,002	
Total	44,206	40,730	22,367	22,501	36,472	47,022	24,482	40,881	
Children	24,515	23,467	10,345	7,991	17,987	31,425	16,999	22,709	
Students	5,815	7,719	3,777	1,450	4,080	4,658	7,195	8,526	1979
Adults	22,770	20,536	9,956	15,148	17,002	23,037	6,350	12,643	
Total	53,100	51,722	24,078	24,589	39,069	59,120	30,544	43,950	
Children	24,384	24,344	9,603	8,333	21,375	33,584	16,505	25,280	
Students	6,411	8,535	3,270	1,343	3,716	4,365	8,538	8,109	1980
Adults	27,677	23,877	10,681	14,753	20,714	29,690	8,273	14,432	
Total	58,472	56,756	23,554	24,429	45,805	68,425	33,316	47,821	
Children	21,486	24,148	11,670	11,706	22,909	36,423	17,149	23,230	
Students	6,792	7,347	3,580	1,896	5,260	5,395	6,736	6,742	1981
Adults	26,811	23,363	10,540	18,784	21,895	31,239	8,718	16,066	
Total	54,089	54,858	25,790	23,530	50,064	73,057	32,603	46,583	
Children	15,602	20,065	7,849	9,481	18,847	28,000	14,038	22,898	
Students	4,755	6,106	2,559	1,639	4,932	5,387	5,323	7,397	1982
Adults	27,072	19,915	8,885	15,409	18,835	25,172	8,930	15,251	
Total	47,429	46,086	19,293	26,529	42,614	58,559	28,291	45,546	

Fig. 3 ST. LAURENT - Public Swimming Attendance



YEAR	CHILDREN	STUDENTS	ADULTS
1976	17,920	4,805	8,940
1977	18,759	5,057	10,943
1978	21,260	7,619	12,002
1979	22,709	8,526	12,643
1980	25,280	8,109	14,432
1981	23,230	6,742	16,066
1982	22,898	7,397	15,251

Fig. 4 CANTERBURY - Public Swimming Attendance



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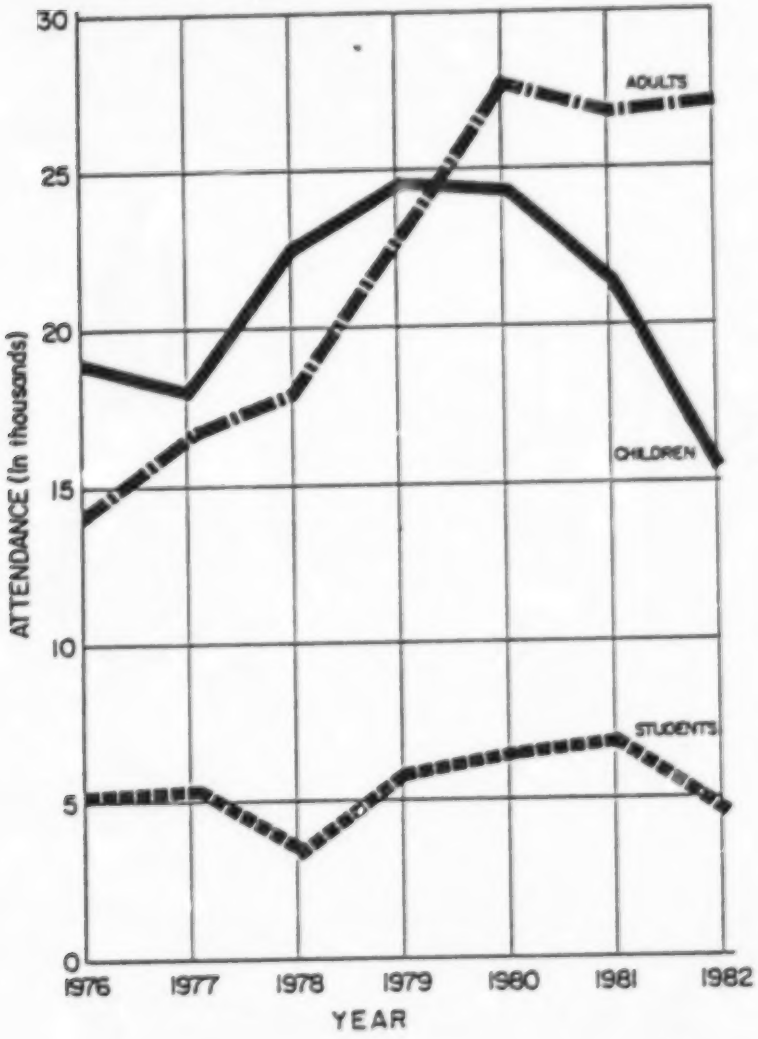
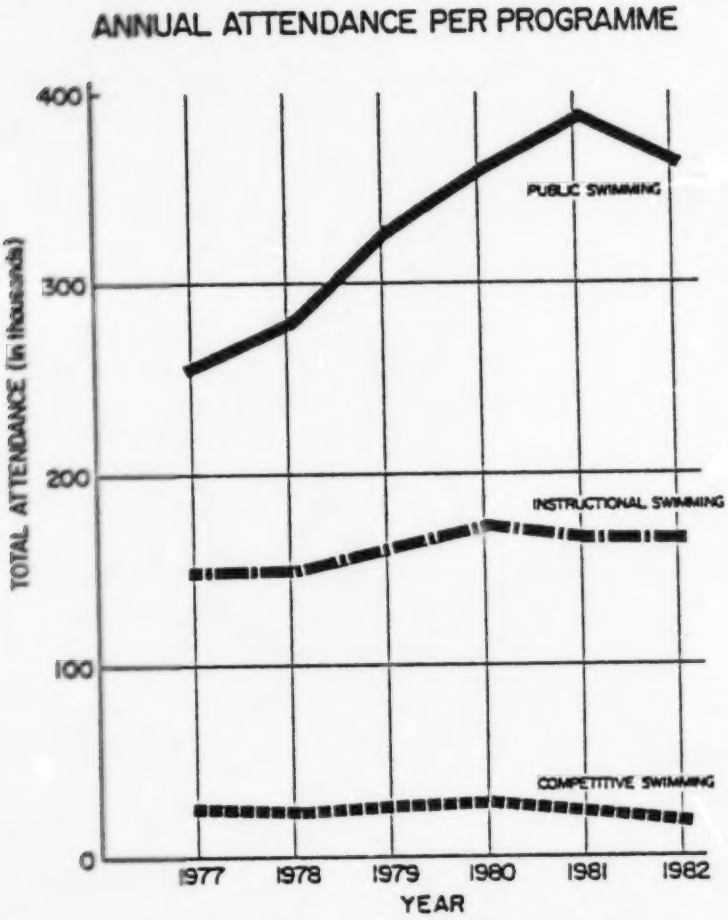
1976	18,730	5,180	10,010
1977	21,034	6,289	12,901
1978	19,741	6,141	14,848
1979	23,467	7,719	20,536
1980	24,344	8,535	23,877
1981	24,148	7,347	23,363
1982	20,065	6,106	19,915

BREWER POOL-Public Swimming Attendance



YEAR	CHILDREN	STUDENTS	ADULTS
1976	18,900	5,290	14,085
1977	18,128	5,309	16,314
1978	22,501	3,797	17,908
1979	24,315	5,815	22,770
1980	24,384	6,411	27,677
1981	21,486	6,792	28,811
1982	15,602	4,755	27,072

Fig. 5



YEAR	Public Swimming	% of Total	Instructional Swim.	% of Total	Competitive Swim.	% of Total
1977	256,701	57	149,598	33	25,208	6
1978	278,661	59	149,704	32	24,197	5
1979	326,172	61	160,419	30	25,587	5
1980	358,528	62	172,992	30	25,444	5
1981	376,570	64	167,601	29	23,988	4
1982	314,347	60	166,652	32	19,260	4

Fig. 6

3. Why Do People Go? (Figure 6)

The use of local pools for public swimming has been consistently greater than that for instructional and competitive programmes. The ratio is 60:32:5, respectively. The remaining 3% is being used for paid and free rentals. Over the six years, there has been a slight increase in public swimming and a slight decrease in competitive swimming. The apparent decline in competitive participation is largely due to the movement of team practices to university pools.

In general, all user groups' open swims have increased attendance. Participation in tots', children's and adults' lessons has also increased, as it has in lifesaving.

The information suggests that people are becoming less interested in organized physical activity. For most, the ability to swim and freedom to indulge in personal aquatic recreation have priority over swimming for merit.

a) Programming (Table 3)

i) Programming has remained relatively consistent in the six year period. Pre/post-natal swims were introduced in 1982. Attendance figures are not available but pool staff consider them to be under used. There has been an increase in the variety of lesson levels and these are successfully employed.

ii) Programme costs have not varied greatly or become out of proportion with inflation, except in competitive and synchronized swimming. For these programmes, user fees have approximately doubled, for example, senior competitive has increased from $150.00 to $369.00 per annual membership. Most programme costs have increased by one-third or less.

Programming information from non-City facilities, such as local universities and neighbouring municipalities, is being awaited. This information will allow for a comparison of what is being offered in aquatics and should clarify recent indications in user demands.

b) Scheduling

Based upon first and last year's figures, scheduled time for public swimming has increased by 34%. 100% more time has been allotted for adult swims, 27% more for senior citizens, and a decrease of 30% for students. As the distinction between children and teens often varies according to the subjectivity of the counter, few conclusions can be drawn from a comparison of pool usage and time scheduled for youths' public swim. In general, all facilities are responding to the increase in adult interest with extended pool time.

Table 3

ANNUAL ATTENDANCE PER PROGRAMME

	CHILDREN	STUDENTS	ADULTS	SR.CITIZENS	SCHOOL	CHILDREN'S LESSONS	ADULT LESSONS	SENIOR	LIFE SAVING	PARENT-N-ME	SWIM-N-TRIM	SKIN DIVING	COMPETITIVE	MASTERS	SYNCHRO	WATER POLO
1977	128,857	33,543	88,928	5,373	81,649	39,614	9,533	2,585	4,678	5,776	5,063	700	15,010	1,962	5,537	2,699
1978	136,789	34,191	102,218	5,463	79,302	40,513	10,650	3,332	4,847	5,947	4,825	288	14,796	1,025	6,012	2,364
1979	155,438	43,220	121,304	6,210	79,908	44,549	11,193	3,386	5,323	10,587	5,058	415	15,738	539	6,816	2,494
1980	163,358	44,287	143,967	6,916	87,936	45,888	9,966	2,962	6,312	13,918	5,835	175	15,329	1,147	6,909	3,059
1981	167,782	46,911	154,911	6,996	89,495	43,772	9,208	1,757	4,723	13,354	4,578	714	13,224	2,152	5,277	3,335
1982	140,550	38,098	129,531	6,168	79,769	48,159	13,095	60	5,019	19,159	1,243	148	10,694	1,461	4,554	2,551

Table 4

MONTHLY PUBLIC POOL ATTENDANCE

	JAN.	FEB.	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
1977	30,267	37,624	44,943	42,521	44,197	28,251	55,000	46,423	24,008	38,888	40,068	20,889
1978	31,477	38,140	42,346	49,584	54,160	29,124	57,774	49,720	19,991	39,624	40,071	23,462
1979	36,995	72,672	51,351	25,397	44,710	37,420	39,952	50,536	46,859	50,789	46,051	30,465
1980	46,919	46,564	54,228	55,216	57,309	35,738	73,729	58,150	30,192	47,054	46,079	29,810
1981	41,509	49,205	53,843	52,015	53,721	37,178	74,381	60,228	33,711	49,672	50,540	34,607
1982	40,642	43,698	53,826	47,183	50,251	30,999	66,002	54,008	24,319	38,864	42,657	28,347
1983	39,594	40,000										

Facilities

City Pools

The City of Ottawa provides public aquatic services with eight traditional indoor pools and one outdoor pool. "Traditional" typically defines a 25 metre pool, five or six lanes wide, with one major diving facility. Dimensions vary: Brewer Pool is largest (25 m x 12.8 m) and Jack Purcell smallest (18.28 m x 7.62 m). Shared use agreement with the Ottawa Boys and Girls Club and with Clifford Bowey Pool, upon its opening in June, provide additional public access.

The Leisure Alternative

In recent years, trends towards leisure aquatics have become apparent in many North American and European cities. A major aquatic facility study to determine the nature of local demand was completed in 1980, however, the concept of a major leisure facility was still very much in an embryonic stage of development. Experimentation in other municipalities indicated success, but details were considered inadequate for parallel analysis.

Canada currently maintains leisure pools in the cities of Kitchener, Brampton, Calgary, Edmonton and Burnaby. Hamilton's "wave-tech" pool is in its final stages of construction. There is no current inventory of leisure components specific to each facility. Various features are:

Sundecks; increased deck space
Kidney, "L" and fan-shaped pools
Lower water levels
Whirlpools, saunas, diving pools, learning pools
Natural decor such as: rocks, fountains, tropical plants
Artificial tanning stations
Dry area exercise equipment
Observer's galleries
Adjacent bars/restaurants
Wave generators

The departure from standard dimensions and equipment has proven to be of greater service to the heterogeneous community. Higher attendance is stimulated. Leisure pools have extended appeal to non-swimmers, providing pleasant deck spaces, therapeutic saunas and whirlpools, and comfortable water levels. Novel "wavetech" pools, by simulating tidal action, have the ability to draw people from great distances.

The forthcoming revised Aquatic Facility Study will consider in detail the feasibility of implementing the leisure concept regionally and locally.

Discussion

The available information on local pool usage possesses strong indicators of increasing trends towards public swimming, particularly for adults. Comments and statistics relating to the success of leisure pools in other municipalities are being collected. These will enable us to conjecture the extent to which current interest in non-organized aquatics would justify the development of leisure facilities in this region.

POOR

QUALITY

ORIGINAL